

Salem Lutheran Church

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 4, 2024

Gathering

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

Prelude

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.

***HYMN** At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (vss. 1-4) #362

***GREETING**
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***Canticle of Praise** Glory to God in the Highest pp. 148-149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the

morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’ ”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:23-29

God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)

²³So God commanded the | clouds above
and opened the | doors of heaven,

²⁴**raining down manna upon | them to eat
and giving them | grain from heaven. R**

²⁵So mortals ate the | bread of angels;
God provided for them | food enough.

²⁶**The LORD caused the east wind to blow | in the heavens
and powerfully led out | the south wind,**

²⁷raining down flesh upon | them like dust
and flying birds like the sand | of the seas,

²⁸**letting them fall in the midst | of the camp
and round a- | bout the dwellings.**

²⁹So the people ate and | were well filled,
for God gave them | what they craved. R

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ’s one body.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the

lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation (ELW #172 – Halle, Halle, Hallelujah)**

***GOSPEL READING: John 6:24-35**

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark Boorsma

***HYMN**

What Feast of Love

ELW #487

***APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

O Wise One, your wisdom has been present in this world since its beginning. Pour out your wisdom into the hearts of the whole church, especially the newly baptized, lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy God of all creation, you are the source of all life. Where the sun blazes hard and strong, bring a gentle breeze. In the places experiencing the cold of winter, bring your warmth. We pray for those with health issues especially Larry, Woody, Dean, Mary, Kermit, Terry, Pat and all others on our hearts and minds this day.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, help government leaders of this world unite for peace and justice. Humble all who hold authority, that power is directed toward a more just society.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Bread of life from heaven, you feed us. Fill all who hunger with needed nutrition and open our hearts to eliminate hunger in this world. May we see a day when all are fed.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

O Wisdom of truth, help us to understand your will for the church. Be with congregations experiencing transition, redevelopment, and the exciting yet frightening path of newness. May your wisdom be found at every step.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Redeeming God, we give you thanks for the lives and witness of your saints now departed. Bring your beloved into eternal glory, opening wide the gates to the heavenly banquet.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen.

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time.

Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the door.

***OFFERTORY**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW #184

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

***Hymn**

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

#461

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

***HYMN**

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

#676

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 150

¹**Praise the LORD!**

**Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!**

²**Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**

³**Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!**

⁴**Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!**

⁵**Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!**

⁶**Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!**

Assisting in Worship

Lector: Pam Jacobsen

Coffee: Deb Stolarcek

Ushers: Randy & Deb Kolling

Thank you to Jan Reshetar for the beautiful music this morning.

The flowers near the altar are given by Jan Werner in memory of her husband, Richard Werner on his 1st heavenly birthday today.

We will be receiving new members next Sunday, August 11th. Coffee at 9:00 a.m. will be in their honor. Please come and welcome them.

Pastor Joel Erickson will be offering GriefShare for 13 weeks starting Sept. 19 at Grace Lutheran Church (his previous 13-week session finished on July 11). There are a lot of people suffering from unprocessed grief. Grief never fully goes away but there is a world of difference when people can process the emotions and thoughts in a safe place where others listen. The half hour videos for each session are excellent. You can sign up via the GriefShare.org website.

Noisy Offering for the month of August will go to the Salem Roof Fund. Please be generous.

This Week at Salem

Tuesday, August 6: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday, August 8: 4:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Friday, August 9: 6:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (at Bancroft Creek)

Sunday, August 11: 9:00 a.m. Coffee hour in honor of our new Salem members
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Nature's Funny Guy- Al Batt

Wednesday, August 14 • 2:00–3:00 p.m. at OAK PARK® Place Albert Lea • 1615 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN. Enjoy stories from Al Batt, a renowned writer, humorist and nature fanatic! Please RSVP by Friday, August 9. Call (507) 373-5600 or email albertleasales@oakparkplace.com



Thursday, August 22: 12:00 p.m. (Noon) **SOS (Salem Over Sixty) Potluck** in the Lower Auditorium. Please bring a dish to pass.